AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraphs on page 3, after line 15 and before line 16.

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- Figure 1 shows the reticulation occurring in the polyurethane chain through the formation of the bond with the tetraacetoxy functions that are present in tetrafunctionalized polydimethylsiloxane (see page 9, lines 27-30).

- Figure 2 shows the reticulation mechanism of tetraacetoxy-functionalized polydimethylsiloxane (see page 10, lines 9-10).

- Figure 3 shows the formation of a three-dimensional network (reticulation of chemical bonds) due to the presence of tetraacetoxy-functionalized polydimethylsiloxane (see page 10, lines 11-14).

- Figure 4 shows the behavior of the material according to the present invention, containing 20% by weight of PDMS, compared with a known material such as Cardiothane® 51 (commercial polyurethane) containing in (non-reticulated) mixture 10% by weight of chemically non-reticulated and releasable PDMS (see page 11, lines 10-15).

- Figure 5 shows a DSC spectrum of Cardiothane® 51 and of the elastomeric material of the present invention obtained from aromatic polyurethane (PU) and 20% by weight of a functionalized polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) (see page 11, lines 15-19).

- Figure 6 is a comparative test between: a polyurethane (PU) named Estane, a material Cardiothane® 51 (mixture of a polyurethane (PU) and a polydimethylsiloxane PDMS) and the elastomeric material according to the present invention, obtained from the synthesis of aromatic polyurethane and 20% by weight of functionalized polydimethylsiloxane (see page 11, lines 20-26).

- Figure 7 shows an IR spectrum of a material.

- Figure 8 shows an IR spectrum of another material.--

Please add the following new paragraph on page 3, after line 16 and before line 17.

--The invention includes a process for preparing an elastomeric material comprising a step in which a polyurethane is reacted with a polydialkylsiloxane in the presence of a solvent at a temperature below 100°C, in which said reaction is carried out in oxygen free atmosphere.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 28, with the following amended

paragraph.

--These reactive/functional groups are chosen among hydroxy (-OH); methoxy (CH_3O-); ~~etoxy~~ ethoxy (CH_3CH_2O-); ~~etoxy~~ acetoxy (CH_3CO_2-); epoxy (CH_2CHO-); acetoxy (CH_3COO-); carboxy (COOH); amino (-RNH_2-) and other groups.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 10, with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 4 shows the behavior of the material according to the present invention, containing 20% by weight of PDMS, compared with a known material such as Cardiothane® 51 (commercial polyurethane) containing in (non-reticulated) mixture 10% by weight of chemically non-reticulated and releasable PDMS. Figure 5 shows a DSC spectrum of Cardiothane® 51 and of the elastomeric material of the present invention obtained from aromatic polyurethane (PU) [[e]] and 20% by weight of a functionalized polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 11, with the following amended paragraph.

--This means that in the material according to the present invention PDMS is chemically bonded with polyurethane in a greater amount than PDMS in Cardiothane® 51. For this reason the amount of PDMS that can be crystallized in the invented material is smaller and the amount of PDMS that is free within the invented material is smaller.--

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended Abstract.

~~--Most patients suffering from peripheral atherosclerotic vascular illnesses or from heart pathologies such as coronary ischemia need substitutive vascular ducts so as to retrieve vascular continuity, or valve substitutes so as to retrieve heart valve function~~ Process for preparing an elastomer material including a step in which a polyurethane is reacted with a polydialkylsiloxane in the presence of a solvent at a temperature below 100°C.--

Attachments: Replacement Sheet, clean copy of Abstract.